



## IN BRIEF - AN INFORMATION UPDATE

October, 2010

Above photo: Strawberry Lake in the fall.

### TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

In November 2005, the U.S. Forest Service published the "Final Travel Management Rule," which directs all National Forests to designate a system of roads, trails and areas for motorized vehicle use. The Malheur National Forest currently has about 6,000 miles of roads and trails available for motorized vehicle use.

In accordance with the Travel Rule, the Malheur National Forest proposes to manage motorized travel outside of these existing designated routes. The proposal would not close existing designated routes open for motorized use, but would eliminate unregulated cross country travel on the Forest. Motor vehicle use for dispersed camping would be allowed within 300 feet of existing designated roads.

Following the project decision; roads, trails, and areas will be open to motorized travel as designated on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The map would be provided to the public free of charge and would be updated annually.

Please join us at an Open House to better understand the proposal to comply with the Travel Management Rule on the Malheur National Forest.

DATE: November 3, 2010  
TIME: 6-8 pm  
LOCATION: Harney County Community Center  
484 North Broadway  
Burns, Oregon

DATE: November 4, 2010  
TIME: 6-8 PM  
LOCATION: Forest Service Office  
431 Patterson Bridge Road  
John Day, Oregon

Mailing List information: If you'd like to be on this project mailing list, receive all future information by email only, or comment on the Malheur NF Travel Management Plan:

write us at:  
Malheur National Forest  
PO Box 909  
John Day, OR 97845  
or call 541-575-3000  
or email us at  
[malheur\\_public\\_information@fs.fed.us](mailto:malheur_public_information@fs.fed.us)

For updated information and an opportunity to comment, visit the Malheur National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur/recreation/travel-management/index.shtml>

### BLUE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The Blue Mountain Range program successfully implemented approximately 16 miles of new fence construction on the Upper Middle Fork, Slide Creek, and Murderers Creek Allotments. These fences were designed and constructed in partnership with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (GSWCD), and the grazing permittees. Permittees contributed time and labor to the project implementation and materials for the various fences were provided by all partners including an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant to the NFJDWC. These projects were implemented to improve livestock management and protect critical habitat for Mid Columbia River (MCR) steelhead.

The District is currently working with permittees and with GSWCD to implement fencing and water development projects on numerous allotments with the assistance of Title II funds (Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000) awarded to GSWCD for allotment improvement projects. These projects are expected to be completed by Sept 2012 and will provide further protection to riparian resources and MCR steelhead critical habitat.

For more information contact, Kelly Ware at (541)-575-3432 or [kware@fs.fed.us](mailto:kware@fs.fed.us)

*This document is intended to provide a brief update of what is occurring on the Malheur National Forest.*

*More information can be found at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur).*





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### BLUE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT - OTHER PROJECTS

3,862 acres of precommercial thinning and piling work in plantations and recently burned areas have been awarded to Atherly Contracting, Grayback, AAA Thunderbolt, Cutting Edge, Santos Reforestation, and 3B's Forestry.

Plantation Maintenance, Lower Middle Fork signed August 2, 2010. Approximately 2958 acres

Plantation Maintenance, Lower Middle Fork Summit and Reed Fires signed October 7, 2010. Approximately 6931 acres.

The purpose of these projects is to improve tree growth and vigor, improve wildlife habitat, reduce fuels accumulations, and decrease the future risk for insect and disease infestations.

For more information contact, Amanda Lindsay at (541)-575-3333 or [alindsay@fs.fed.us](mailto:alindsay@fs.fed.us)

#### Wildlife Projects:

- 40,000 acres were surveyed for wildlife by seven Recovery-funded seasonal biological science technicians and five Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) crew members during the 2010 season.
- Additional work (OYCC) included; noxious weed removal along existing roadways at ODOT construction sites, hardwood planting in riparian restoration areas, repair and maintenance of water troughs (spring developments) in Bald Hills, Vance Creek, and at the Spion unit, creation of brush piles for wildlife use, fish salvage at the channel relocation site of the Middle Fork of the John Day River, and aspen stand fencing installation and removal.
- Installation and fabrication of batgate mine closures for two mines on the District (Belle of the Hills and Bluerock Telluride).
- The Murderer's Creek Juniper Removal and Forage Improvement Project has removed 1150 acres of juniper on FS lands, with a remaining 100 acres to be completed by December 2010. 1023 acres of juniper have been removed within the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Management Area by ODFW personnel and contractors.

For more information contact, June Galloway at (541)-575-3489 or [jgalloway@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgalloway@fs.fed.us)

### EMIGRANT CREEK RANGER DISTRICT - PROJECTS PLANNED

#### Dairy Vegetation Management

- Environmental Assessment (EA) planned to be released for public comment December 2010.
- Decision expected: February 2011.
- Includes commercial and precommercial thinning and biomass removal. Commercial harvest - about 1,400 acres.
- Expected offer - Winter 2011.
- Estimated volume: 1-2 mmbf.

For more information, contact Lori Bailey at (541)573-4366 or [labailey@fs.fed.us](mailto:labailey@fs.fed.us).

### PRAIRIE CITY RANGER DISTRICT - PROJECTS PLANNED

#### Lodgepole Salvage and Sanitation Projects - Prairie City Ranger District

- Two separate projects with epidemic bark beetle activity:
  - \* North Fork Lodgepole Salvage and Sanitation. Project area is approximately 247 acres within the Swamp Creek subwatershed.
  - \* Summit Prairie Lodgepole Salvage and Sanitation located in the Summit Creek subwatershed. Project area is approximately 100 acres.
- Both projects propose removal of dead lodgepole and opening the area for personal use firewood.
- Projects are located within 20-30 air miles of Prairie City.
- Decision expected: October 2010.

For more information on Prairie City Ranger District projects contact Ryan Falk at (541)820-3800 or [rfalk@fs.fed.us](mailto:rfalk@fs.fed.us).

